

~~/ EXDIS OR ONLY~~

-----005467 192158Z /73

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5. TOTAL DISAPPEARANCES FOR 1978 PRESENTLY REPORTED TO THE EMBASSY STAND AT 450 -- WHICH WOULD APPEAR TO MAINTAIN THE LAST REPORTED AVERAGE OF 38 PER MONTH. DURING NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER HOWEVER ONLY 15 DISAPPEARANCES WERE REPORTED (8 IN NOVEMBER AND 7 IN

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Return
to SH

Department of State, A/GIS/PSP/SRP

~~Change to _____~~

~~() Release () Excise () Deny (X) Declassify~~

~~Exemptions b () E.O. 13526 25x (X)(X)~~

~~Declassify after _____~~

With concurrence of: _____

IPS by [Signature] obtained Date 7-5-90 net obt. 6

ROPE WILLIAM F
79 BUENOS AIRES 573

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DECEMBER). REALISTIC ESTIMATES MUST CONSIDER THE
LIKELIHOOD OF SUBSEQUENT REPORTS. TO SPECULATE THEN
THAT A FINAL AVERAGE MONTHLY FIGURE FOR DISAPPEARANCES
IN 1978 WILL BE AT 38-42 DOES NOT, WE BELIEVE, STRETCH
THE IMAGINATION-- NOR DOES IT SEEM THAT AN ADDITIONAL
PROVISION FOR 13-17 UNREPORTED CASES IS LIKELY TO
BE TOO FAR FROM REALITY.

6. FOR AS LONG AS WE CANNOT GET PRECISE STATISTICS--
AND WE HAVE NO IDEA THAT THIS WILL EVER BE POSSIBLE--
OUR ESTIMATES MAY APPEAR TO ERR ON THE SIDE OF HIGH
NUMBERS, EVEN THOUGH WE WILL DEFEND THESE ESTIMATES

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AS THE BEST AVAILABLE IN A VIRTUALLY INSCRUTABLE
SITUATION. EVEN WHEN WE USE ESTIMATES THAT ARE ON
THE HIGH SIDE. HUMAN RIGHTS GROUPS, WHO USE DATA
THAT WE BELIEVE ARE OFTEN LESS SOLID THAN OUR OWN, MAKE CHARGES THAT
WE ARE NOT AWARE OF THE DEPTH OF THE DISAPPEARANCES
PROBLEM HERE.

CASTRO

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HA Subject Files

1

Argentina - Aug 9 Testimony